



BOROUGH OF MACCLESFIELD.

REPORT

ON THE

Health of Macclesfield

For the Year 1923.

BY

J. Hedley Marsh, J.P.,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (London).

Fellow of the Royal Institute of Public Health, &c.

Fellow of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Medical Officer of Health,

Superintendent, Isolation Hospitals, &c.

Heath Bros. Limited, Printers, Macclesfield.

Borough of Macclesfield.

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The following Twenty-two Members of the Town Council constitute the Health Committee :—

THE MAYOR.

ALDERMAN BAILEY.

„ BRADLEY, J.P.

„ BROCKLEHURST, J.P., C.C.

„ COOPER.

„ EATON, J.P.

„ J. G. FROST, J.P.

COUNCILLOR ABRAHAM.

„ BREES.

„ BROCKLEHURST, C.C.

„ BROUGH.

„ CATLOW.

„ COMPSTON, J.P.

„ GODWIN.

„ HAMMOND.

„ JACKSON.

„ MOWBRAY.

„ NEWBALD.

„ SALT.

„ SHELDON.

„ SLACK.

„ WEBSTER, J.P.

CHAIRMAN : Mr. Alderman Eaton.

Meetings at 11 a.m. on the third Thursday in each month.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE :—

Chairman—Mr. Alderman Eaton.

Vice-Chairman—Lady Sheffield.

SUB-COMMITTEES :—

Sewage Works Chairman : Mr. Alderman J. G. Frost.

Hospital Chairman : Mr. Alderman Bailey.

Cleansing Chairman : Mr. Councillor Newbald.

Rateable Value of the Borough, £129,038 0s. 0d.

One Penny Rate produces : Poor Rate £490 ; District Rate £460, (Sanitary Services, etc.)

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health (part time), Medical Superintendent Isolation Hospitals, and School Medical Officer, (J. HEDLEY MARSH, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (London), &c.)

Sanitary Inspector, also Inspector under Food and Drugs Acts, Factory and Workshops Act, Contagious Diseases of Animals Acts, and Shops Acts, (JOSEPH HERMANN), has the diplomas of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

[One-half of the Salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector is contributed by Exchequer grants.]

Assistant Sanitary Inspector (ARTHUR ALBINSON), has the diploma of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector.

Canal Boats Inspector and Inspector of Graveyards (WILLIAM JENKINS).

Veterinary Inspector (WILLIAM J. WAGSTAFFE, M.R.C.V.S.)

Health Visitors, 1. (MRS. PROCTOR), trained nurse and C.M.B. Certificate ; 2. (MISS WORTH), diploma of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Health Visitor and School Nurse, also the C.M.B. Certificate.

Matron of the Isolation Hospitals (MISS CHAPMAN), trained nurse.

Cleansing Foreman (EDWIN MOSS).

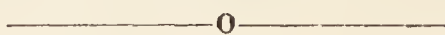
Disinfecter (JAMES BUNTING).

Sewerage & Water Engineer (EDWARD HAMSON, M.I.M.C.E.) Borough Surveyor.

Sewage Works Manager (JAMES H. EDMONDSON, F.C.S.)

Borough Analyst (part time), (S. ERNEST MELLING, F.I.C.)

Sanitary Administration.



LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYELAWS, AND LOCAL REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH, IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT, WITH DATE OF ADOPTION.

LOCAL ACTS.

1. The Macclesfield Borough Waterworks Act, 1849.
2. The Macclesfield Improvement Act, 1852.
3. The Macclesfield District Gas Act, 1860.
4. The Macclesfield Corporation Act, 1882.
5. The Macclesfield Corporation Act, 1923.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

1. The Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890 ; Parts II. and III. as from the 1st May, 1891.
2. The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.
3. The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890 ; as from the 1st May, 1891.
4. The Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 ;
Sections 15 to 23, 26 to 33 ; Part III.
Sections 52 to 66 and 68 ; Part V. and VI. ;
Sections 79 to 81, 84 and 85 ; and Part VIII., as
and from the 12th October, 1910.
5. The Public Libraries Acts.

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Regulations under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1886, and the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1885.

Slaughterhouses, 1852.

Common Lodging Houses, 1891.

Nuisances, 1891.

Prevention of Nuisances, 1903.

New Street and Buildings, 1891.

Factory and Workshop (Escape in case of fire), 1913.

Public Markets and Fairs, 1890.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending December 31st, 1923.

—:O:—

TO THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE MACCLESFIELD
TOWN COUNCIL.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my TWENTY-FIFTH Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Borough of Macclesfield.

CENSUS 1921.

During 1923 the Census Statistics for Cheshire were completed and from this volume I have had the following statistical data relating to the Borough abstracted.

Total Population of the Borough ... 33,846.

Males—15,031 ; Females—18,815.

As the Census was taken 19th of June, I do not think any considerable number of inhabitants were absent from home on holidays.

The total number of persons in one or other of our Public Institutions who belonged to districts other than Macclesfield, was 960. Deducting this figure, it leaves us with a net population for Macclesfield of 32,886, of which 14,604 are males and 18,282 are females. We have therefore an excess female population of 3,678 over males. This proportion is considerably greater than that which prevails for the country generally. It gives us 1,252 females to 1,000 males.

Between the Census of 1911 and 1921, the total births have exceeded the deaths by 837.

The loss by migration was 1,788.

War deaths which occurred abroad have been treated as loss by migration.

The decrease in population during the decennium was the second largest in the County. Stalybridge with 1,297 or 4·9 per cent. showing the greatest diminution.

For the County of Cheshire as a whole, the **increase** in population was 6·2 per cent.. For England and Wales it was 4·9 per cent.

WARD AND PRIVATE FAMILY AND DWELLING PARTICULARS.

		Area in		Total		Popula- tion		Persons per	
		Statute		Persons.		Males.		Acre	
		Acres				Females			
Nc.	1 Ward	678	...	5,834	...	2,530	...	3,304	...
„	2 „	855	...	5,171	...	2,318	...	2,853	...
„	3 „	495	...	7,861	...	3,422	...	4,439	...
„	4 „	674	...	6,032	...	2,661	...	3,371	...
„	5 „	454	...	4,912	...	2,301	...	2,611	...
„	6 „	58	...	3,076	...	1,372	...	1,704	...

Density for the whole of the Borough—10·5 persons per acre.

PRIVATE FAMILIES AND DWELLINGS.

		Population		Structurally Separate		Rooms		Rooms per	
		in Private		Dwellings		Occupied.		Person.	
		Families.		Occupied.					
Whole		Private							
Borough		Families.	...	31,693	...	8,549	...	37,431	...
No. 1 Ward		1,575	...	5,684	...	1,572	...	7,108	...
„ 2 „		1,142	...	4,342	...	1,131	...	5,269	...
„ 3 „		2,187	...	7,840	...	2,181	...	9,390	...
„ 4 „		1,669	...	5,992	...	1,663	...	7,285	...
„ 5 „		1,219	...	4,778	...	1,214	...	5,007	...
„ 6 „		792	...	3,057	...	788	...	3,372	...

AGE DISTRIBUTION.

13,496 persons were under 25 years of age or 39·8 per cent. ; in 1911 it was 44 per cent.

10,401 persons were over 25 and under 45 years of age or 30·7 per cent. ; in 1911 it was 30 per cent.

7,569 persons were over 45 and under 65 years of age or 22 per cent. ;
in 1911 it was 19.1 per cent.

2,380 persons were over 65 years of age or 7 per cent.

3,843 persons were over 60 years of age or 11.35 per cent. of the
total population.

In 1911, 3,358 persons were over 60 years of age or 9.6 per cent.
of the then population.

This means that we have a still larger proportion of old people
in our town than we had in 1911. At that time our proportion of aged
persons was in excess of that of the country generally and this excess
tends to increase our Death Rate disproportionately to that of the
rest of the country.

After the last Census the Registrar-General provided a factor
for multiplying the **actual** death rate which in our case was less than
unity and so we obtained what was known as a **standardised** death rate.
This factor I have not yet been provided with.

MARITAL CONDITIONS.

	Males.		Females.
Single	7,553	.....	10,019
Married	6,841	.....	6,976
Widowed	637	.....	1,816
Divorced .....	—	.....	4

LOCAL AGE CONDITIONS.

Average age of Males	31.8 years.
Do. do. Females	33.9 „

PROPORTION OF MALES TO FEMALES.

Number of females per 1,000 males—1,252. For the country
generally the proportion was 1,036 females to every 1,000 males.

OCCUPATIONS.

Cheshire is described in the Census return as mainly a manu-
facturing County with its agriculture also of importance.

Male textile workers are of importance. Macclesfield just falls
short of having 25 per cent. weavers.

Bakers are stated to be especially numerous in Chester and Macclesfield.

Makers of paper are concentrated in a few districts including Macclesfield and Bollington.

WOMEN IN OCCUPATION.

In Macclesfield over half the females over 12 years of age are in occupation, viz. : 509 per 1,000. 461 per 1,000 are textile operatives, chiefly winders, weavers, spinners and silk winders and throwsters.

Undefined sewers are returned in large numbers from Macclesfield (122 per 1,000).

58 per cent. embroiderers in the County were enumerated from Macclesfield.

Indoor domestic servants, an index as to social conditions are returned as 15 per 1,000.

The proportion of married and widowed women in occupation is not stated.

GENERAL STATISTICS FOR 1923.

Area (in acres)	3,214
Population { Gross	33,846
(Census 1921) { Corrected	32,886
Population for 1923 is taken as stationary.	
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	8,549
Do. families or separate occupiers (1921)	8,584

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1923.

Births ... 615.	Males ... 334	{ Birth-rate ... 18·7
	Females ... 281	{ Last year ... 18·7

Also—

Illegitimate births ... 44	{ 37 mothers belong to Borough.
	{ 7 do. outside the Borough.

Deaths ... 424	{ Males 219	{ Death-rate ... 12·8
	{ Females 205	{ Last year ... 15·3

Deaths of infants under	{ Legitimate 50
one year of age 55	{ Illegitimate 5

Infant death-rate per 1,000 births, 89 ; last year, 67.

Deaths from the Zymotic diseases	9 ;	Death-rate	0·2, last year	0·8
Deaths from Respiratory diseases	65 ;	„	1·9, „	2·4
Deaths from Cancer	37 ;	„	1·1, „	1·5

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1923.

The Registrar-General has issued a provisional statement of the figures for birth-rate, death-rate, and infantile mortality during the year 1923.

	Birth- rate.		Death- rate.		Infant mortality- rate.
England & Wales ...	19·7	.....	11·6	.....	69
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	20·4	.....	11·6	.....	73
157 Smaller Towns..	19·8	.....	10·6	.....	68
London	20·2	.....	11·2	.....	61

The smaller towns are those with an estimated population in 1921 of 20,000—50,000. The death-rate for England and Wales relates to the whole population, but that for London and the groups of towns to the civilian population only. The birth and infant mortality-rate for London have been provisionally corrected for transfers.

The Registrar-General remarks that the birth-rate of England and Wales as a whole is the lowest recorded, except during the war years 1917–19, while the death-rate and infantile mortality are the lowest on record.

BIRTHS.

Births Registered	632	{ Boys	339
		{ Girls	293
„ „ not belonging to the Borough	17	{ Boys	5
		{ Girls	12
Number of births of parents of the Borough			615

This equals a birth-rate of 18·7 per 1,000 inhabitants and is exactly equal to last year's figure.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.

Number Registered	44	{ Boys	20
		{ Girls	24
Not belonging to Borough	7	{ Boys	2
		{ Girls	5

This corresponds to an illegitimate birth-rate of 6·0 per cent. of all births registered as compared with 6·4 last year.

It is an excessively high rate.

WARD BIRTHS.

	Population.	No. of Births.	Birth-rate.
No. 1 Ward	5,834	115	19·7
No. 2 Ward	5,171	101	19·5
(Corrected for Asylum and Workhouse).			
No. 3 Ward	7,861	133	16·9
No. 4 Ward	6,032	99	16·4
No. 5 Ward	4,912	100	20·3
No. 6 Ward	3,076	67	21·7

It seems clear from a study of the birth-rate in various areas of the town for years back that in families least able to support a large number of children, there they are most numerous. This may imply for some of these children stunted growth and defective mental and physical life. Whatever may be said about the artificial prevention of conception, it is very essential for the future of the race that the multiplication of those having definite heritable defects or of those who will not or cannot support themselves and their families, should be prevented. This question is one of great moment and should receive the close attention of all social workers.

DEATHS.

Total Deaths Registered.....				558
Belonging to the Borough...	424	{	Private Residents	295
Not belonging to the			Institutions	114
Borough	134		Transferred to District ...	15
Corrected death-rate—12·8 per 1,000 inhabitants.				

The deaths in the Asylum, Workhouse, Infirmary, are responsible for a large proportion of outside deaths. It is however, rather a remarkable fact that nearly half the deaths of persons belonging to the Borough occurred in one or other of our Institutions.

The death-rate for this year is the lowest ever recorded for the Borough.

The death-rate for the 157 smaller towns with which Macclesfield is comparable was 10·6 for the year, so that we are still considerably above the rate for corresponding areas. I think it points clearly to the fact that a mild winter and wet summer are on the whole conducive to health, at least, these climatic conditions do not favour respiratory or diarrhoeal diseases in old people and young children.

Of the 424 deaths, 219 were males and 205 females. 171 deaths were of persons over 65 years of age and of this number no less than 79 were over 75 years of age, 29 males and 50 females. This proportion appears to indicate that the females live longer than the males in this town.

DEATH-RATES SINCE THE YEAR 1874, WITH FIVE YEARLY AVERAGES.

Yrs.	Death- rate.	Yrs.	Death- rate.	Yrs.	Death- rate.
1874	26·6	1887	23·8	1902	15·1
1875	25·0	1888	18·2	1903	17·3
1876	28·1	1889	21·2	1904	20·1
1877	20·2	1890	21·9	1905	18·1
1878	23·8	1891	20·8	1906	17·0
1879	23·2	1892	25·1	1907	16·8
1880	21·7	1893	20·6	1908	16·6
1881	23·6	1894	17·7	1909	15·7
1882	23·0	1895	22·5	1910	14·2
1883	23·6	1896	20·0	1911	16·5
1884	22·0	1897	20·3	1912	15·1
1885	20·4	1898	18·5	1913	14·5
1886	20·0	1899	20·4	1914	12·9
		1900	19·6	1915	16·3
		1901	18·5	1916	15·5
				1917	14·5
				1918	19·4
				1919	15·8
				1920	13·7
				1921	14·2
				1922	15·2
				1923	12·8

21·16

21·18

22·8

19·46

17·52

15·9

Stand-
ard
ised.

16·3

DEATHS.

For Year 1923.—Total for Borough.

Cause of Death.	Under				15-	25-	45-	Over	Total
	1	1-2	2-5	5-15	25	45	65	65	
Enteric Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Measles .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever.....	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2
Diphtheria & Croup ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea & Enteritis	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Influenza .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	4
Pulm'nary Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	5	9	12	1	27
Tubercular Meningitis	1	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	5
Other Tub'ulous Diseases	1	...	1	4	4	...	...	3	13
Cancer (Malignant Dis.) ...	...	...	...	...	...	3	17	17	37
Organic Heart Disease ...	...	...	...	2	...	4	23	24	53
Bronchitis	1	2	...	...	...	3	9	18	33
Broncho-pneumonia ...	5	2	2	...	...	...	1	4	14
Pneumonia (all other forms) .....	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
Other Res'tory Diseases ...	...	2	...	...	...	1	6	7	16
Appendicitis .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Alcoholism .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Nephritis & Bright's Disease .....	...	...	...	1	...	1	8	6	16
Puerperal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
Other Acc. & Dis. of Pregnancy & Parturition ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Congenital Debility, Malformation and Premature Birth ...	31	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Violent Deaths (excluding Suicides)	1	...	...	2	...	2	4	5	14
Suicides .....	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	1	6
Other Defined Diseases	11	2	2	2	2	10	22	85	136
TOTALS	55	12	8	13	13	40	112	171	424

WARD BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

Ward No.	Popula- tion.	Birth- Rate.	Death- Rate.	Zymotic Death- Rate.	Tuber- culosis Death- Rate.	Inf't Rate Calcu- lated per 1,000 born.
1 ...	5,834 ...	19.7 ...	13.1 ...	0.1 ...	2.5 ...	104
2 ...	5,171 ...	19.5 ...	10.6 ...	0.3 ...	0.9 ...	89
	(Corrected .					
3 ...	7,861 ...	16.9 ...	11.9 ...	0.1 ...	0.8 ...	45
4 ...	6,032 ...	16.4 ...	13.7 ...	0.3 ...	1.8 ...	32
5 ...	4,912 ...	20.3 ...	14.6 ...	0.6 ...	0.8 ...	220
6 ...	3,076 ...	21.4 ...	13.9 ...	0.0 ...	0.9 ...	44

The infant death-rates in Wards 1 and 5 are extraordinarily high. No. 5 Ward is quite unique.

This Ward has for many years been the black spot in the Borough.

Those parts of No. 1 Ward situated at the bottom of Hurdsfield around Waterloo Street, Arbourhay Street, Eastgate, Princess Street, and Queen Street, are other areas which do not give satisfactory health figures.

Dealing with No. 5 Ward. How badly it affects the town's general health statistics is shown by the facts that if this Ward's figures be excluded from those for the town generally it reduces our General Death-rate from 12.8 per 1,000 of population to 12.2, and our infant death-rate from 89 per 1,000 born to 64 !!

It will be noted also that the Zymotic death-rate is highest in No. 5 Ward.

QUARTERLY DEATHS.

	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Total.
1st Quarter	24 ...	17 ...	24 ...	24 ...	20 ...	11 ...	120
2nd ,,	21 ...	16 ...	31 ...	22 ...	29 ...	15 ...	134
3rd ,,	13 ...	10 ...	20 ...	20 ...	13 ...	6 ...	82
4th ,,	19 ...	12 ...	19 ...	17 ...	10 ...	11 ...	88

The large number of deaths during the second quarter of the year occurred mainly in elderly people in No. 5 Ward.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age, 55 ; males 38, females 17.

Death-rate per 1,000 born, 89·43 ; last year 67.

WARD INFANT DEATH-RATE.

No. 1 Ward	104	No. 4 Ward	32
No. 2 Ward	89	No. 5 Ward	220
No. 3 Ward	45	No. 6 Ward	44

The extraordinary high death-rates in No. 5 Ward and in No. 1 Ward, render the figures for Borough much above those for the country generally.

QUARTERLY DEATH RETURNS.

1st Quarter.		2nd Quarter.		3rd Quarter.		4th Quarter.
16	.....	20	.....	12	.....	7

PRINCIPAL CAUSES TO WHICH THE INFANT DEATHS WERE ASSIGNED.

Diarrhœa and Enteritis	7	Last year	3
Premature Birth	15	do.	10
Congenital Malformations	5	do.	4
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...	11	do.	7
Bronchitis and Pneumonia.....	6	do.	3

No deaths were attributed to Measles or Whooping Cough ; last year 5 deaths were ascribed to these two Zymotic diseases.

17 deaths occurred under one week of age and 27 under one month.

The Registrar-General in his Annual Report for 1921, summarises for reference the chief groups of diseases causing infant deaths. The largest group is “ developmental and Wasting Diseases, and includes Premature Birth, Debility, Atrophy, Marasmus and Congenital Defects.” To these causes one-third or 33 per cent. of the total deaths under one year of age were assigned, in Macclesfield 56 per cent. were so assigned.

In towns, excessive infant mortality is associated with poverty, and it is always highest in the poorest War^{ds} of any town. Poverty is a complex condition as it affects excessive infant mortality. It may in one instance be due to insufficient earnings and then additional money or its equivalent is required. It may be caused by intemperance or improvidence when other remedies are indicated.

In some towns where wages are good, excessive infant deaths occur and here bad housing, a low standard of cleanliness are responsible or other secondary causes of poverty come in such as intemperance, gambling, improvidence and thriftlessness.

The deaths attributed to Premature Birth have engaged the close attention of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee during the past year. It is unfortunate that our knowledge of the causes of mortality in the first week or month are so imperfect. It seems generally to be accepted that Syphilis, alcoholism, want of rest and good food before confinement, are important causes of Premature Births, and for lack of vigour and weight in the infants.

For some years Lady Broadhurst has given dinners at a nominal charge to expectant and nursing mothers. These she had to discontinue.

During the latter part of the year representations were made to the Corporation as to the need for more food for expectant and nursing mothers, and the sum of £200 was voted for the provision of suitable dinners for expectant and nursing mothers.

The dinners commenced on October 12th, and up to December 31st, 883 had been provided at different centres in the town.

37 individual mothers partook of these dinners of which number 26 were nursing and 11 were expectant mothers. Of the expectant mothers having dinners, 10 infants have been born alive, including one set of twins. It will be interesting to follow up these children.

In this connection it is interesting to note the conclusions arrived at in a recent report to the Medical Research Council on "The effect of Maternal Social Conditions and Nutrition upon Birth Weight and Birth Length," by Miss Bruce Murray. The general conclusion arrived at is that poverty, lack of proper nourishment, and generally unfavourable social circumstances during pregnancy do not produce much effect on the weight or stature of the infant at birth.

Miss Bruce Murray states, "the foetus lives like a true parasite regardless of the expense to the mother."

It would thus appear that the mother suffers, and her ability to nurse and care for the child may be seriously impeded if she is not properly fed, and housed, during the last few weeks of pregnancy at least.

The following table abstracted from Rosenau's "Preventive Médecine" is of interest.

PREVENTABLE CAUSES OF INFANT MORTALITY.

- 1.—Those but **little** influenced by treatment :
 - Malformations.
 - Extreme feebleness or prematurity (before the 7th month).
 - Certain accidents during birth.
- 2.—Those capable of **considerable** reduction chiefly through proper hygiene, sanitary isolation and medical treatment :
 - Tuberculosis, Syphilis.
 - Acute Respiratory diseases.
 - Acute contagious diseases, Measles, Whooping Cough.
- 3.—Those capable of **very great** reduction through proper feeding and care :
 - Acute gastro-intestinal diseases.
 - Marasmus and inanition.
 - Prematurity (after 7th month).

DEATHS OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

Five illegitimate children died during the year out of 37 illegitimate births. One was aged 24 hours, one three days, one three months, one seven months and one eleven and a half months.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT 1907—1915 (EXTENSION.)

Births Notified by Midwives	567
Births Notified from West Park Hospital	35
Births Notified by Doctors	4
	<hr/>
TOTAL	606
	<hr/>
Number of Births Registered	615
	<hr/>

The provisions of the Act are on the whole well complied with in this Borough.

HEALTH VISITORS' REPORT FOR 1923.

Summary of Work for the Year ending 31st December, 1923.

The total number of births notified to the Medical Officer of Health during the year was 606, and of these 22 were stillborn, leaving 584 born alive.

Of the 584 born alive, 310 were males and 274 females.

Of these 13 males and 12 females were illegitimate.

NUMBERS ATTENDED BY MIDWIVES.

Clarke, 141 ; Hammond, 98 ; Swindells, 75 ; Guerin, 63 ; Sheriff, 58 ; Wood, 53 ; Lloyd, 35 ; Guardians' Institution, 33 ; Leonard, 8 ; Whittaker, 7 ; Allen, 5 ; Simmonds, 3 ; Hall, 1. Four cases were notified by doctors.

145 of the above cases were attended by doctors.

HOME CONDITIONS.

These were classed as good, fair, poor or bad.

Of the first, 435 were found, of the second 105, and of the third 44.

CONDITIONS OF THE CHILDREN VISITED.

At the first visit made by the nurses to the infants, 474 were healthy and 96 were ailing.

APPLICATIONS FOR MILK.

806 applications were received for a free supply of milk, after investigations 738 were granted. This is a decrease of 108 on last year.

VISITS MADE BY THE HEALTH VISITORS.

	1923.	Compared with	1922.
First Visits	573	.....	561
Sick Visits	1,057	.....	2,023
Pre-natal	497	.....	334
Routine	5,714	.....	3,957
Death Inquiries	55	.....	39
Ages 2 to 5 years	1,890	.....	1,393
TOTALS	9,786	.....	8,307

PRE-NATAL WORK.

233 individual expectant mothers were visited during the year, and of these :—

198 were born healthy infants.
 38 were born ailing infants.
 7 were stillborn.
 10 are brought forward to 1924.

42 mothers were given milk.
 31 were advised medical treatment.
 26 houses were unsuitable for confinement.

HURDSFIELD HOUSE.

This Centre has been carried on satisfactorily during the year and the personal influence of the Health Visitors and voluntary helpers has done much to brighten the lives of many working mothers and to help them to bring up healthier children.

The Centre is open two afternoons of the week, Mondays and Thursdays from 2-30 to 4 p.m.

Dressmaking classes were held and Health Talks given.

The attendance for the year was as follows :—

The number of infants on the Register	375
The number of mothers „ „	272
The total number of Infants weighed.....	1,477
„ „ „ „ in nursery	1,650
Total attendance of mothers in Lecture Room	2,538
„ „ „ „ to Dressmaking Class..	483
Total attendance of mothers to Sick Nursing Lectures	54

Total attendance of expectant mothers	83
Total number of Infants examined by Medical Officer	183
Total attendance of Infants	2,577
Total attendance of Mothers	3,064

The attendance of individual expectant mothers at the Welfare Centre was 24, of these 22 healthy infants were born.

The Medical Officer attends on Thursday afternoons to see all new admissions and any needing medical advice.

Baby Week was held in June, and a Baby Show was held at Hurdsfield House, when 182 babies were weighed and examined by three medical men, 34 obtained full marks, and were classed as A.1. babies, 98 received 1st class certificates and 49 2nd class certificates.

The sum of £27 was collected in the streets when a procession of decorated cars was held.

BETHEL CENTRE REPORT.

A new Centre was opened at the Bethel School in the poorest district of the town, where the infant mortality had been exceptionally high. This has been well attended and has proved a great help to the mothers.

The Centre was opened during Baby Week on the 11th June. Several members of the Committee along with Dr. Marsh and Dr. Newbald, were present at the opening. The two doctors each gave a short address after which tea was served to the 21 mothers and 24 children present.

A weekly session is held every Monday afternoon from 2-30 to 4 p.m., Dr. Newbald attends at 3-15 to see all new and ailing infants and nursing and expectant mothers requiring advice.

The attendance at the Centre since the opening was as follows :—

The number of children on the Register	148
The number of mothers on the Register	108
The number of Infants weighed	340
The number of Infants examined by Doctor	168
The attendance of expectant mothers	62
Total attendance of children	663
Total attendance of mothers	526

The Centre was open 25 times.

Average attendance of mothers, 21.04 ; Average attendance of children, 26.5.

The number of individual expectant mothers attending was 15, of these 7 healthy babies have been born.

On December 27th, a 'Xmas Party was held when 49 mothers and 60 children sat down to tea, after which gramophone selections were given.

Lady Broadhurst was obliged to discontinue the dinners for nursing and expectant mothers which she had supplied for so many years.

The Corporation was approached and granted £200 for free dinners which the mothers could obtain at four or five different centres.

These dinners commenced on October 12th, and from that date to December 31st, the number given was 883.

37 individual mothers partook of these, of which 26 were nursing and 11 were expectant.

Of expectant mothers having had dinners 10 infants have been born alive including one set of twins.

The Milk Committee have continued to grant milk to urgent and necessitous cases, averaging about 60 milk tickets per month.

The Health Visitors and Committee work hand in hand, and it is felt that this branch of the work continues to be of great benefit to the expectant and nursing mothers and young babies.

During the year £29 2s. 5d. has been spent on clogs. The Committee feel sure that much sickness and ill health has been prevented owing to the children being properly shod.

DAY NURSERY.

The unemployment in the town still affects the Day Nursery, but good work is being done and the health of the babies has been satisfactory. In all 4,916 attendances have been made, an average of 17.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Total Deaths	35	Last year	39
Total Notifications	56	do.	52

27 of the 35 deaths were from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 19 males and 8 females, compared with 32 deaths last year.

The following table is of interest as setting out the relation of Pulmonary to other forms of Tuberculosis and the incidence on the various age groups.

**AGE PERIODS OF CASES NOTIFIED AND OF THE
DEATHS DURING 1923.**

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmon-ary.		Non-Pul-monary.		Pulmon-ary.		Non-Pul-monary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year .....	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1
1 to 5 years .....	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	3
5 to 10 years	2	...	2	3	...	...	2	2
10 to 15 years .....	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1
15 to 20 years .....	...	5	1	2	...	2	...	2
20 to 25 years	3	2	2	1	3	1	1	1
25 to 35 years	4	3	...	...	3	3	...	...
35 to 45 years	3	2	1	...	4	...	...	...
45 to 55 years .....	...	5	...	...	4	2	...	...
55 to 65 years	2	...	...	...	4	...	...	...
Over 65 years .....	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	3
Totals	14	17	8	17	19	8	5	13
Combined Totals ...	31		25		27		18	

WARD DEATHS AND NOTIFICATIONS FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

		Notifications.	Deaths.
Ward 1	.....	8	8
„ 2	.....	5	4
„ 3	.....	2	2
„ 4	.....	6	9
„ 5	.....	5	1
„ 6	.....	5	3

Two cases only were reported from The County Mental Hospital.

The 25 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were as follows :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Last Year.
Meninges	1	6	7	1
Bones of Foot.....	—	1	1	—
Hip	1	—	1	1
Elbow Joint	—	1	1	—
Hand	—	1	1	—
Fingers	—	1	1	—
Skin	1	—	1	1
Spine	1	1	2	—
Cervical Glands	2	3	5	3
Tabes Mesenterica ...	1	—	1	1
Mesenteric Glands ...	—	1	1	—
Peritoneum	2	1	3	1
Throat	—	1	1	—
Other Parts	—	—	—	5
TOTALS	8	17	25	13

29 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 14 males and 15 females, received institutional treatment, and 15 cases of non-pulmonary, 6 males and 11 females, a total of 44 in all, details of which are set out in the table of Notifiable Diseases.

During the year, 31 houses were disinfected after the death or removal of the patient, as against 44 for 1922.

EXAMINATION OF SPUTUM.

39 specimens of sputum were sent to the Clinical Research Association. In 14 the tubercle bacillus was found.

Speaking generally, Tuberculosis is gradually declining, and the slightly increased numbers which were noted during the war period have disappeared and the gradual decline which had been in progress for the previous 20 years, appears to be in operation again.

The principal factors which favour this decline are good housing and abundance of sound food, all other agencies are of quite a secondary importance.

If we have a prolonged period of bad trade and insufficient and unsuitable housing accommodation, this disease will probably cease to decline and may even temporarily increase.

In connection with the incidence of non-pulmonary tuberculosis on children, it is quite possible that many are infected from tuberculous milk. In the infected abdominal glands of young children, the bovine bacillus is frequently found to be the cause.

Many cases of bone and joint disease in children are acquired from tuberculous milk.

In a large milk producing County like Cheshire the supervision of the dairy herds and examination of the cows udders for tuberculous mastitis is of great importance.

Facilities should be offered by the Authority having the principal concern with the prevention of tuberculous diseases in the County for the examination by inoculation of the centrifugalised deposits of suspicious milks.

THE ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The following Table shows the deaths attributed to the seven Zymotic diseases during the year, allocated to the Wards from which they came.

	Ward		Ward		Ward		Ward		Ward		Ward		Total
	1		2		3		4		5		6		for
													Borough
Smallpox	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0
Measles	1	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1
Scarlet Fever.....	0	...	1	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	2
Diphtheria	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	1
Whooping Cough	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0
Typhoid Fever ...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	1
Diarrhoea	0	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	3	...	0	...	4
TOTALS	1	...	2	...	1	...	2	...	3	...	0	...	9

This corresponds to a Zymotic death-rate of 0·2 per 1,000 inhabitants compared with 0·8 last year. No. 5 Ward once more tops the list and occupies the unenviable position of having the largest death-rate from this group of preventable diseases.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE SINCE 1874, WITH QUINQUENNIAL AVERAGES.

Years.	Death-rate from the seven Zymotic Diseases.	Years.	Death-rate from the seven Zymotic Diseases
1874	2.5	1899	2.6
1875	2.4	1900	1.8
1876	6.0	1901	1.6
1877	2.1	c1902	0.3
1878	2.3	1903	0.9
1879	1.7	1904	2.3
1880	1.1	1905	1.6
1881	3.4	1906	1.5
A1882	3.0	1907	0.8
1883	2.3	d1908	1.0
1884	2.2	1909	0.4
1885	0.8	1910	0.5
1886	1.6	1911	1.5
1887	3.2	1912	0.8
B1888	1.4	1913	1.0
1889	3.0	1914	0.8
1890	1.4	1915	1.1
1891	1.1	1916	0.3
1892	1.1	1917	0.5
1893	1.3	1918	0.5
1894	1.6	1919	0.4
1895	3.1	1920	0.4
1896	3.2	1921	0.8
1897	3.2	1922	0.8
1898	1.8	1923	0.2

A—Compulsory Notification came into force.

B—Isolation Hospital Opened.

c—Isolation Hospital Enlarged and Improved.

d—Isolation Hospital Enlarged and Improved.

DIARRHŒA.

All four deaths from Diarrhœa occurred in children under one year of age, and three out of the four occurred in Ward 5.

Three occurred during the third quarter of the year, and one during the second quarter.

Diarrhœa occurs very largely from dirty food. The improper keeping of milk in open jugs. The accumulation of filth and garbage around houses

Possibly house flies which breed freely in horse dung, &c, carry infection to food so that the weekly removal of dung excrement, and garbage, is necessary, as the domestic fly hatches out its eggs in these muck heaps from ten to twenty days.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.

One child aged 2 years died early in January from Measles. This was one of the last cases of the epidemic of last year.

There have only been a few sporadic cases of Measles and Whooping Cough during the year; 6 of Measles and 12 cases of Whooping Cough being notified from the various schools.

CHICKEN-POX.

In view of the prevalence of Small-pox in the country, it was decided to make Chicken-pox a compulsorily notifiable disease. This was done as from August the 1st. 77 cases were notified during the last five months of the year.

NOTIFICATIONS BY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

Diseases.	No. of Cases Notified.		
Measles	6	Last year	482
Chicken-pox	49	do.	32
Whooping Cough	12	do.	80
Mumps	3	do.	149
Sore Throat	5	do.	4
Suspected Scarlet Fever	7	do.	15

These notifications given voluntarily by the School Teachers are of great value, and they have in many instances enabled us to take early steps to deal with the beginnings of what might have developed into an epidemic of infectious disease.

By the Teacher promptly excluding from school and notifying, it is possible to reduce the influence of school attendance as a factor in spreading disease to a minimum; nay rather the information thus obtained is invaluable as probably it could not otherwise be obtained so promptly and effectively as through the School Teachers' trained observations.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

27

Diseases Notifiable under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889,
and the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912.

	Small-pox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Mem'eous Croup	Typhus Fever	Typhoid Fever	Continued Fever	Puerperal Fever	Acute Poliomyelitis & Cerebo-Spinal F	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Forms of T.B.	Erysipelas	Malaria	Measles	Acute Primary Influenza	P'monia	Dysentery	Totals
1886	...	42	2	...	2	19	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
1887	...	639	8	...	...	44	8	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	711
1888	9	208	2	...	1	19	10	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	153
1889	...	144	...	...	...	17	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	173
1890	...	98	...	...	...	7	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	109
1891	...	38	2	...	...	14	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
1892	1	51	2	...	...	14	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
1893	6	250	5	...	...	13	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	277
1894	4	42	5	1	...	17	2	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
1895	...	31	117	22	...	29	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	178
1896	...	28	227	...	...	22	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	280
1897	...	62	36	1	...	36	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	135
1898	...	268	20	...	...	46	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	353
1899	..	303	14	...	...	35	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	351
1900	1	50	16	..	...	62	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
1901	1	28	24	...	...	20	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
1902	...	126	12	2	...	26	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	196
1903	20	141	20	...	...	21	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	282
1904	49	56	7	1	...	12	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	176
1905	6	103	12	2	...	13	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	177
1906	...	394	20	1	1	13	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	430
1907	...	66	46	1	...	11	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	127
1908	...	55	39	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
1909	...	173	14	...	...	24	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	216
1910	..	284	16	..	...	15	...	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	319
1911	...	258	14	...	...	24	...	6	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	308
1912	...	289	19	...	...	9	...	...	...	2	86	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	405
1913	...	296	23	...	...	31	...	...	...	5	80	53	...	...	...	...	...	...	488
1914	...	131	38	...	...	10	...	4	...	4	62	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	278
1915	...	65	19	...	...	7	...	3	...	3	65	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	191
1916	...	52	40	...	...	3	...	1	...	4	70	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	193
1917	...	35	27	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	59	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	145
1918	...	18	16	...	...	7	...	...	3	8	61	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	120
1919	..	21	48	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	62	20	7	7	774	34	107	1095	
1920	...	29	40	...	...	1	...	2	2	10	68	22	10	2	...	7	61	254	
1921	...	63	50	...	...	8	...	5	...	7	60	21	7	4	...	20	47	301	
1922	...	200	24	...	...	1	...	3	...	5	39	21	23	...	...	10	14	348	
1923	...	97	8	...	...	7	...	4	2	3	31	25	11	...	...	10	17	236	

This Table is interesting not only as showing the numbers of cases notified during the year, but also it shows how the compulsory notification of diseases has been extended during the last fifteen years. The value of compulsory notification of Erysipelas is doubtful as also that of acute primary and influenzal pneumonias.

The next Table which I submit is a new one of great interest and contains practically all the information regarding the infectious diseases occurring in 1923, which it is possible to express in tabular form.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1923.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	AT AGES — YEARS.												Total notified last year (1922)	CASES TREATED IN HOS- PITAL, SANATORIUM, ETC.						Total Deaths	DEATHS AT AGE PERIODS.												Total Deaths last year (1922)
		Under 1 year	1 — 2	2 — 3	3 — 4	4 — 5	5 — 10	10 — 15	15 — 20	20 — 35	35 — 45	45 — 65	65 and upwards		Isolation Hospital	General Infirmary	County Mental Hospital	West Park Hospital	Sanatoria	Other Hospitals		Under 1 year	1 — 2	2 — 3	3 — 4	4 — 5	5 — 10	10 — 15	15 — 20	20 — 35	35 — 45	45 — 65	65 and upwards	
Diphtheria	8	1	...	1	1	3	...	1	...	1	...	24	7	1	1	1	
Scarlet Fever.....	97	...	3	6	7	2	28	21	10	13	5	2	...	200	71	...	13	2	1	1	...	3	
Enteric Fever	7	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	4	...	1	...	1	4	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
(including Paratyphoid)																																		
Puerperal Fever	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	3	...	2	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Pneumonia :—																																		
Acute Primary	9	1	6	...	1	1	14	1	4	1	1	...	1	1	...	
Acute Influenzal	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	10	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery (Asylum).....	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	8	5	14	...	...	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polio-Encephalitis...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Anterior Poliomyel- itis	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	11	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	6	1	23	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox	77	3	3	8	9	4	46	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	236	8	8	15	16	7	76	28	13	27	11	20	7	294	82	10	33	5	12	2	1	2	3	1	2	1	4
Tuberculosis :—																																		
Pulmonary Male	14	2	7	3	2	...	19	...	2	1	3	8	...	19	6	4	8	1	...	
Pulmonary Female ...	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5	2	5	...	20	...	2	1	3	9	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	...	2	...
TOTALS ...	31	2	...	5	12	5	7	...	39	...	4	2	6	17	...	27	2	10	4	10	1	32	
Non-Pulmonary Male	9	1	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	2	1	...	...	4	...	6	...	...	...	...	5	1	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...
Non-Pulmonary Female ...	16	1	4	2	2	...	3	1	2	1	...	...	1	13	...	9	...	...	...	2	13	1	2	1	...	2	1	2	1	...	...	3
TOTALS ...	25	2	4	2	2	...	5	2	3	3	1	...	1	17	...	15	2	18	2	2	1	4	2	2	2	7	
GRAND TOTALS	292	10	12	17	18	7	83	30	21	42	17	27	8	350	82	29	35	11	17	2	57	4	3	1	...	2	4	2	4	15	5	12	5	43

DISTRICT NOTIFICATIONS.

	Ward 1	Ward 2	(Public Institu- tions). Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Total.	Last Year.
Scarlet Fever.....	38	13	13	11	10	6	6	97	200
Diphtheria	1	...	...	1	4	...	2	8	24
Typhoid Fever	1	...	...	...	4	2	...	7	1
Puerperal Fever	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	5
Erysipelas	4	2	...	1	3	...	1	11	23
Pneumonia :—									
Acute Primary	1	1	1	3	...	3	...	9	14
Acute Influenzal	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	10
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Acute Polio-Encephalitis.....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Dysentery (Asylum).....	...	...	17	...	...	...	...	17	14
Tuberculosis :—									
Pulmonary	8	3	2	2	6	5	5	31	39
Non-Pulmonary.....	6	2	...	4	4	9	...	25	17
TOTALS	63	22	33	22	32	27	16	215	350

Exclusive of Chicken-pox.

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DOMESTIC OVERCROWDING.

The following Table shows the number of occupants, including children, in the houses from where cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria were notified.

As the bad effects of overcrowding are aggravated in the bedrooms, the number of bedrooms only are shown for each house. The number of the living rooms would at the least equal that of the bedrooms in all of the smaller houses if greater detail is desired.

Of the 97 cases of Scarlet Fever notified, 13 occurred at the County Mental Hospital, 15 at the General Infirmary and 1 at the Guardians' Institution, these, of course, are not included in the Table.

Scarlet Fever cases are shown by the letter S, and Diphtheria cases by the letter D.

— Houses with	NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS OF EACH HOUSE.								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1 Bedroom ...	0	2S	2S	3S	1S	0	0	0	0
2 Bedrooms ...	0	1S	5S	7S 2D	7S	4S 1D	3S	1S 1D	0
3 Bedrooms ...	0	2S	1S	4S	5S 1D	3S	1S 1D	5S	1S
4 Bedrooms ...	0	0	0	0	0	4S	1S 1D	1S	0
5 Bedrooms ...	0	0	0	1D	0	0	0	0	0
6 Bedrooms ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1S	2S	0

11 per cent. occurred in houses with 1 bedroom, 41 per cent. in 2 bedroomed houses, 32 per cent. in 3 bedroomed houses, 8 per cent. in 4 bedroomed houses, and 4 per cent. in 6 bedroomed houses.

N.B.—There is a larger proportion of 2 bedroomed houses in the Borough.

SCARLET FEVER.

During 1923, 97 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified compared with 200 last year. Two deaths were ascribed to this disease compared with three last year.

13 cases were notified from the County Mental Hospital compared with 26 last year. 71 cases were removed to Hospital.

The two deaths which were ascribed to Scarlet Fever took place—one at the Isolation Hospital and one at the County Mental Hospital.

Twenty-seven notifications were received during the first quarter of the year, 32 in the second, 16 in the third, and 22 in the fourth quarters.

DIPHTHERIA.

Only 8 notifications of Diphtheria were received during the year and 7 of the patients were removed to hospital.

There was one death that of a boy aged 4 years of age, who was in a serious condition when removed, and died on the third day after admission to hospital.

During 1922, there were 24 cases notified and 17 removed to hospital.

There was one death.

TYPHOID FEVER INCLUDING PARATYPHOID.

Seven notifications of Typhoid Fever were received including one of Paratyphoid.

Four of these were notified during the first quarter of the year.

In the first case the disease appeared to have been contracted out of town. Two subsequent cases were traced to this case. The case of Paratyphoid occurred in a boy 14 years of age.

Four of the cases were removed to Hospital, and one was treated in the General Infirmary.

There was one death, that of a male adult.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

Four cases were notified.

Two cases were admitted to the General Infirmary, and one to the West Park Hospital.

There were two deaths—one in the Infirmary and one in the West Park Hospital.

The supervision of Midwives is carried out by the County Council (Midwives Act).

When a case of Puerperal Fever is notified, your Medical Officer of Health writes to the Midwife in whose practice the case has occurred, and requires her **either** to forthwith submit herself and her appliances to cleansing and disinfection at the Isolation Hospital and to cease attendance on the fever case, **or** to continue in attendance and cease all other midwifery work whilst so doing and at the conclusion of the case then to submit to the cleansing and disinfection before resuming her general practice.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Three cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified. What has to be notified is a “a purulent discharge from the eyes of an infant commencing within twenty-one days from the date of birth.” One case recovered and two died. One of general systemic infection, and the other death was ascribed to “convulsions.”

It is to be noted that Ophthalmia Neonatorum is productive of about one fourth of all cases of blindness and of at least one-third of the blindness in inmates of British Blind Schools.

ERYSIPELAS.

Eleven cases were notified as against 23 last year.

There were no deaths attributed to this disease.

ACUTE POLIO-ENCEPHALITIS.

One notification was received, that of a young child who was admitted to the General Infirmary and died therein.

There is probably a close relationship between Polio-Encephalitis and Encephalitis Lethargica, possibly both being the same disease.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS.

One case of this disease was notified in a young child and was treated at the Infirmary.

ACUTE PRIMARY AND ACUTE INFLUENZAL PNEUMONIA.

Nine cases of the former and one of the latter were notified as against 14 and 10 last year.

DYSENTERY.

Seventeen cases were reported from the County Mental Hospital as against 14 last year.

CHICKEN-POX.

This disease was made compulsorily notifiable on August 1st, and from that date 77 cases were notified. The presence of cases of Small-pox in the North of England resulted it necessary to make the disease notifiable.

LABORATORY WORK.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

During the year the following specimens were sent to the Clinical Research Association for examination and Report.

	Specimens.	Positive.
Typhoid (Widal Reaction) ...	16	5
Tuberculosis (Sputum)	39	14
Diphtheria (Throat or nose swab)	61	4

In addition, 22 positive tuberculosis Reports were received from the County Council Laboratory.

MILK.

Twenty-five samples of milk were sent for bacteriological examination.

They were all centrifugalised and the sediment examined for tubercle, pus or blood cells and detritus and dirt generally.

No inoculation experiments for tubercle were carried out.

With one exception good reports were received on all the samples.

The exceptional one contained a "fair amount of detritus." The Analyst added that "although it would not be justifiable to call the specimen a dirty milk."

The general opinion was that the samples, which had been taken whilst being delivered, contained much less detritus than the average vended sample.

The samples were taken during February, April, August and November.

I think we may congratulate ourselves on having a fairly clean milk supply.

I think, however, the milk vendors should do away with the present churns into which they have to dip their arms in order to get out the milk.

A can with a tap near the bottom is much preferable.

Again, smoking whilst delivering milk is a dirty habit, as tobacco and cigarette ash, &c., readily fall into the milk when the churn lid is raised and rain can run in off the hat and the coat sleeve rub against the sides of the can. Milk delivered in closed bottles is much preferable.

The present custom of hawking milk around the town in cans, periodically exposed to dust, dirt, rain and soiled clothing is not satisfactory, and quite out of date and should now give place to cleaner methods.

This is very important, as milk forms a stable article of food for infants and invalids.

WATER ANALYSIS.

The water supply has been kept under observation during the year.

Nineteen samples have been taken and sent for chemical and bacteriological examination.

Six of the town's supply taken from the Cumberland Street Main.

Six from the Mechanical Filters.

Six from Hurdsfield Water.

1 from a recently sunk well.

I append the Analyst's remarks on the results of 18 of the above samples.

The samples were taken in the months of February, April, June, August, October and December.

TOWN'S SUPPLY.

DATE OF SAMPLE.	CUMBERLAND STREET MAIN.
13th Feb.	"Of fairly satisfactory quality."
24th April.	"Fairly satisfactory purification."
19th June	"B. Coli present, not of the highest bacterial purity, though improved."
14th Aug.	"Organic matter high. Not quite so good as it should be."
16th Oct.	"Bacillus ent. sporogenes present." "May be regarded as safe for drinking."
11th Dec.	"Bacterical results show much more efficient filtration necessary." "Water of poor quality."

I think that although the results on the whole are fair, the supply needs keeping under close and frequent observation.

I do not think that the last result is at all satisfactory, and it must cause uneasiness to those responsible for the town's drinking water.

THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The number of patients dealt with during the year was as follows :-

IN HOSPITAL on January 1st, 1923	29
Scarlet Fever.....	26
Diphtheria	3
ADMITTED during 1923	153
Diphtheria	17
Scarlet Fever.....	132
Enteric Fever	4

Of the 153 cases, 82 came from the Borough, 49 from the Rural area, and 22 from Bollington.

SCARLET FEVER.

Admitted	132 cases.
Deaths	2 „

The deaths occurred, one in a boy aged 5 years who developed the disease after being extensively burnt in a lime pit. The other was a girl aged four years, also an accident case, having suffered from concussion of brain after a fall. Both these cases developed Scarlet Fever whilst under treatment in the Infirmary.

Fifteen cases of Scarlet Fever were received from the General Infirmary during the year.

The 158 cases of Scarlet Fever dealt with during the year were in Hospital 6,375 days, an average of 40 days a case.

The next Table shows the number of "Return Cases" of Scarlet Fever and various details relating thereto.

“RETURN CASES” OF SCARLET FEVER.

No.	Initials.	Age.	Date 1st case discharged.	Date 2nd case notified.	Period between discharge of 1st case and notification of the second.	Period 1st case was in Hospital.
1	D. T. A. T. D. T.	6 years 8 " 10 "	13/8/23 27/8/23 29/8/23	27/8/23	14 days	48 days
2	H. M. H. M. I. M.	7 years 4 " 3 "	8/9/23 15/9/23 15/9/23	15/9/23	7 days	56 days
3	K. R. M. R.	10 years 5 "	16/11/23 3/12/23	3/12/23	17 days	44 days
	In same class at school as case notified on the 29/11/23.					
	M. R.	9 years	6/12/23			

ENTERIC FEVER.

Four cases were admitted during the year and all made a good recovery.

DIPHTHERIA.

Number admitted.....	17
Borough Cases	7
Rural Area	8
Bollington	2

They were in Hospital 556 days, an average of 32 days. All made a good recovery, but one, a boy in a very advanced stage on admission.

Much larger doses of Antitoxin are now administered than formerly, 8,000 to 16,000 units are used for an ordinary case, and I believe the results are now much better. The sooner the Antitoxin is administered the more satisfactory the result.

CHICKEN-POX.

During the year a child was admitted into the Scarlet Fever Ward on request from the Rural Sanitary Authority, who had recently suffered from Chicken-pox. No intimation was given us of this fact nor of the fact that the scabs had not all fallen off and that consequently the child was in an infectious state.

This case infected eight others in the same Ward and caused us a great deal of trouble and annoyance.

NUMBER OF DAYS OF PATIENTS, NURSES AND MAIDS IN HOSPITAL.

Nurses—1 Matron, 1 Charge Nurse, 1 Staff Nurse, 5 Nurses	2,850 days.
Maids, (5)	1,762 „
Scarlet Fever Cases	6,375 „
Diphtheria Cases	556 „
Enteric Fever	373 „
TOTAL	11,916 „

I am again indebted to the courtesy of our Borough Accountant (Mr. Herringshaw, A.C.A.), for the Table of Cost, Income and Expenditure on the Hospital for the year.

If this information is used in connection with Table showing the number of days of the inhabitants of the Hospital, it is quite easy to work out the relative costs per patient per day, &c.

The actual cost of food per day was One Shilling and Threepence per head. I think that we can conclude that the Hospital has been well and economically managed by the Matron (Miss Chapman), during the year. Many heavy and trying cases have been dealt with and the results have been satisfactory.

AMBULANCE.

I am pleased to record the fact that the Committee have at length decided to purchase a motor Ambulance.

TENNIS COURT.

I trust the provision of a tennis court for the Nurses may now commend itself to the kindly sympathies of those who know the arduous and trying work of infectious disease Nurses.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1923.

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Wages : Matron	112	7	0
Nurses and Probationers	302	2	1
Maids, &c.	146	1	7
Porter	131	1	6
Removing Cases	30	7	6
Uniform Materials	28	17	6
Groceries.....	218	7	10
Bread and Flour	56	16	4
Meat and Pork	235	11	10
Fish, &c.	40	0	0
Vegetables and Fruit	48	12	2
Milk and Eggs	150	13	10
Drugs and Appliances	45	16	0
Anti-Toxins and Serums.....	11	10	6
Soap and Disinfectants	20	2	6
Poultry Food	13	12	10
Coal, Coke and Oil	162	13	11
Gas and Water	74	11	3

EXPENDITURE—continued.

	£	s.	d.
Repairs to Buildings and Fences, &c.	37	7	2
Painting, &c.	67	16	3
Furniture and Utensils	36	19	1
Rugs, Bedding, Linen, &c.	32	11	10
Printing, Stationery and Advertising	7	1	11
Rates and Taxes	37	11	7
Insurances	29	0	8
Horse Hire, &c.	51	0	6
Telephone and Postages	15	14	5
Loan Charges	36	12	7
Sundries	19	2	11
	<hr/>		
	£2200	5	1
	<hr/>		

INCOME.

	£	s.	d.
Nursing Fees recharged :—			
Macclesfield R. D. Council.....	497	13	7
Bollington U. D. Council	245	2	6
Board of Guardians	16	1	5
Other Authorities and Private Persons	13	1	3
Reservation Fees :—			
Macclesfield R. D. Council.....	100	0	0
Bollington U. D. Council	30	13	4
Amount received on account of Claim for damage caused by fire	47	9	3
Rent of Field	6	10	0
Sundries	0	4	2
Expenditure in excess of Income.....	1243	9	7
	<hr/>		
	£2200	5	1
	<hr/>		

J. W. HERRINGSHAW,

Borough Accountant.

8th March, 1924.

Dr. J. H. MARSH,

Medical Officer of Health.

THE DISINFECTOR.

This is a Thresh Current Steam Disinfector. It was installed in 1900 and has therefore given 23 years of almost continuous service.

Number of beds disinfected by steam	583
Number of counterpanes, blankets, etc.	2,007
Number of articles of clothing	5,672
	<hr/>
TOTAL	8,262
	<hr/>
LAST YEAR	6,364
	<hr/>

THE MORTUARY.

This small building is situated in Hawthorn Street. It has again proved of great utility.

Number of bodies removed to Mortuary during the year 1923	7
Number of post mortem examinations	6

A case of instruments for making post mortem examinations in the mortuary can be obtained on application at the Health Office.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The six registered common Lodging Houses have a registered accommodation for 122 nightly lodgers.

During the year 45,046 lodgers were accommodated as against 42,681 during 1922.

On the whole the houses have been well conducted, verbal reminding having secured the completion of the periodical lime washing when such was in arrear.

One house changed the keeper during the year.

312 visits of inspection were made.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Number of privy closets converted to W.C.'s.....	38
Number of Waste Water Closets converted to W.C.s	2
Number of Clean Water Closets in Borough	7,388
Number of Privy Midden Closets in Borough ...	176

Twenty years ago there were 3,397 privy midden closets, 309 waste water closets and 1,628 clean water closets in the Borough.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

In accordance with the provisions of the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, the required Registers were prepared.

1. Retail Purveyors.
2. Wholesale Producers and Traders.

With each Certificate of Registration the following were sent :—

1. Copy of the Order and Regulations.
2. Extracts of the Law relating to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.
3. Notice of any defects.

(A copy of any defects was also sent to the owner in each instance.)

(1). There are 66 Purveyors on the Register, 49 of whom are resident in the Borough, 26 also being producers, and 17 resident outside but registered in the Borough.

During the year, 4 additions and 4 transfers were made to this Register.

(2). There are 28 Wholesale Producers and Traders resident in the Borough.

Near to the end of the year two of these died, the transfers being in hand at the date of this report. There was one other transfer.

In all there are 46 Cowkeepers producing milk and one Cowkeeper making cheese. The average number of cows being 555; The County Mental Hospital is not included, this being regarded as a private establishment.

All the places registered have been regularly inspected to ensure that the periodical limewashing was satisfactorily completed and the regulations observed.

During the year improvements have been effected to 31 shippens on 19 farms or holdings. Three shippens on two farms have been reconstructed. Each shippen has been raised to 12 feet in height, with a minimum capacity of 600 cubic feet per head, with efficient

means of lighting, ventilation, drainage, etc. Five on three farms have had the floors, drainage, means of lighting and ventilation improved. Sixteen on ten farms have had the means of lighting and ventilation improved. Five on separate farms floors and drainage improved. Two, also on separate farms, air space increased by the removal of the loft floor, and ventilation improved by the provision of roof ventilation. One farm has had a new milk store built, two have had the drainage improved by the removal of drain inlets from inside the milk store and stoneware gulley traps properly affixed outside. On one farm a primitive privy closet has been removed from the side of the shippon. Ten Purveyors have provided new stores for the milk and cans and four have improved their existing stores. The yard drainage of two has been improved. A new extension has been made to one dairy, and one milk purveyor has been required to have his name and address painted on his "dandy."

Alteration of some of the old buildings presents many difficulties which are not reduced by the present day cost of building. Where extensive alterations have been required, which could not, for financial or other reasons, be completed as a whole, the owner was requested to remedy the worst defects first and to ensure that each part completed was satisfactory as regards standard requirements.

Speaking generally the cowkeepers express themselves as desirous of having their shippons improved and brought up-to-date. The best results have been obtained when the owner, tenant, builder and the inspector have met on the spot and discussed the alterations necessary together with the best methods of carrying out the same.

During the inspection of shippons one cannot help noticing the indifference displayed, in some cases, in the housing of young stock, which of course are outside the regulations and the duty of the inspector. But as the young animal of to-day is the milking cow of the future, greater regard to its being kept under proper conditions would be beneficial and a factor in helping to reduce the toll of tuberculosis.

With regard to the latter disease, I desire to strongly support the requests which are being made for the re-introduction of the Tuberculosis Order.

In respect to the provision of a pure and clean milk supply every endeavour is made to ensure :—

1. Clean shippons.
2. Clean udders.
3. Clean milkers, utensils and milking stools.

4. Prompt removal of the milk from the shippon to the cooling plant.
5. Proper storage.

In all 204 visits of inspection have been made to the premises registered.

BAKEHOUSES.

In accordance with the Order in Council of the Home Office of May, 1921, the duty of enforcing the provision for the construction and sanitation of bakehouses contained in Sections 97, 99 and 100 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, i.e.,

- (a) Sanitary regulations for bakehouses,
- (b) Limewashing, painting and washing of bakehouses,
- (c) Provision of sleeping places near bakehouses,

is transferred to the Inspector under the Local Authority for all bakehouses whether factories or workshops wholesale or retail.

There are now 58 Bakehouses, including 12 Oatcake Bakers, on the Register. Each one has been visited during the half yearly inspections, revisits being required to 23 bakehouses and to 6 oatcake bakers at the first inspection, and to 24 bakehouses and 6 oatcake bakers at the second inspection to ensure the satisfactory completion of the periodical limewashing required.

One new bakehouse has been built and occupied and the use of the old bakehouse discontinued.

There is no underground bakehouse in use in the Borough.

During the year the following improvements have been effected : In one an additional outside water closet has been provided to secure separate accommodation for the sexes, and in two the defective yard drainage has been improved, the top of one bakehouse, which was previously open to the tiles and could not be properly limewashed, has been boarded to prevent dirt, etc., falling down; in another, two drain inlets have been removed from inside the bakehouse and a proper connection made to the drains outside the bakehouse.

In all 188 visits have been made to the Bakehouses during the year.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 19 slaughterhouses in the Borough, one of which is at the County Mental Hospital and used occasionally for Institutional purposes only.

One of the licensed slaughterhouses has not been used during the year, which leaves 17 which have been in regular use. Of these 12 are "registered" and 5 of the other 6 are "licensed" conditionally to be given up when required.

At the beginning of the year all of the slaughterhouses were required to be properly remarked "Registered" or "Licensed" as the case may be. During the year attention was called in 2 instances to the insufficiency of the pails for the offal, etc., when the requisite number were provided. Special attention has been given to the regular removal of the manure, some dozen reminders being necessary to secure the required promptness. The periodical limewashing has been regularly attended to. On the whole the slaughterhouses have been maintained in a satisfactory condition. From enquiries there is only one said to use the poleaxe for the slaughtering of cattle, the others using one or other of the mechanical killers.

The provision of a public abattoir would provide better convenience for slaughtering and also for supervision.

During the year 805 visits of inspection have been made to the slaughterhouses.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 3 premises in the Borough where offensive trades are carried on, 2 tripe boilers and one tallow melter.

In all 36 visits of inspection have been made and the premises found to be kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

FOOD INSPECTION.

During the year the following have been submitted for inspection and condemned:—4 whole and 8 part carcasses of beef on account of tuberculosis; 115-lbs. of beef bruised and unsound; 4 sheep's heads; 28-lbs. frozen lamb unsound; 4 6lb. tins corned beef; 1 7-lbs. tin of tongue, unsound; 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ -lbs. ham, mauled by a dog; 2 carcasses of pigs infectious inflammation; Total weight, 3,826-lbs. Also 7-lbs. jar mincemeat; 14 21-lbs. tins of jam; 20 tins of liquid eggs; 3 2-lb. tins of fruit; 24 tins of crayfish; 2 cwt. loose cocoa; 13 25-lbs. boxes

of prunes (325-lbs.) ; 1 box 30-lbs. currants ; 1 box 20-lbs. of dates ; 1 bag tapicoa (150-lbs.) ; 40 tins kingfish ; 144 soup squares ; and 1 dozen small tins of sardines, unsoundness and deterioration through being improperly and overkept.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ended 31st December, 1923, for the Borough of Macclesfield, of the Samples purchased under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, The Public Health (Milk and Cream) Regulations, 1912 & 1917, and The Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923.

During the year, 116 samples were purchased and submitted for analysis by the Borough Analyst, viz. :—Milk 46, Butter 17, Lard 10, Cheese 4, Self Raising Flour 4, Condensed Milk 8, Preserved Cream 7, Dried Milk 2, Epsom Salts 3, Ground Ginger 2, and one of each of the following, Sponge Cake, Sponge Sandwich, Plain Slab Cake, Fruit Slab Cake, White Pepper, Potted Beef, Ham Paste, Almond Nut Butter, Arrowroot, Coffee, Ground Almonds, Ground Rice, and Black Currant Jelly.

Thirty samples were purchased during the first quarter, 31 during the second, 25 during the third, and 30 during the fourth quarter.

All the milk samples, with one exception, were purchased formally the other samples were purchased informally, making 45 formal and 71 informal samples.

The 7 samples of preserved cream were purchased under the Public Health (Milk and Cream) Regulations, and the 8 samples of condensed milk under the Condensed Milk Regulations.

The samples of preserved cream contained .08, .09, .11, .11, .16, .18, and .20 per cent. Boric acid respectively.

Two samples of preserved cream purchased informally were not labelled. This omission was brought to the notice of the vendors and found to have been inadvertently overlooked by inexperienced assistants. Regrets were expressed and promises obtained that strict attention would be given in future. Subsequent samples purchased were found to be properly labelled. A verbal warning was also given to another dairyman for labelling his cream " Preserved Fresh Cream," with the desired result of the regulation labels being subsequently used.

The samples of condensed milk were properly labelled and were reported genuine. Stock inspections were also found properly labelled,

The sample of sponge cake, No. 106E., and the sample of fruit slab cake, No. 109E., contained 0·05 and 0·04 per cent. boric acid respectively. The sample of sponge sandwich and that of plain slab cake did not contain any boric acid.

The samples of self-raising flour were free from undesirable ingredients.

During the third quarter, 3 samples of milk purchased from different purveyors and 2 samples purchased from a producer, were reported genuine but of poor quality. The respective reports were brought to the notice of each one concerned and an explanation requested, but no satisfactory reasons were obtained. Follow up samples were taken. The reports for the whole of the samples are set out below.

No. 65E., purchased 25th July, reported "Inferior quality." Follow up sample, No. 80E., purchased 13th August, reported, Milk fat 3·1 per cent. and Non-fatty solids 8·8 per cent.

No. 68E., purchased 25th July, reported "Inferior quality." See Nos. 77E. and 78E.

No. 69E., purchased 25th July, reported, "Decidedly poor quality." Follow up sample, No. 83E., purchased 13th August, reported "Suspiciously poor quality, containing 3·0 per cent. milk fat and 8·5 per cent. non-fatty solids." Further follow up sample taken from the farmer on delivery, No. 84E., 28th August, reported containing, "3·3 per cent. milk fat and 8·8 per cent. non-fatty solids."

Nos. 77E. night's milk, and 78E. morning's milk, purchased from the same farmer, 9th August, reported, "Suspiciously poor quality and contains only the minima of fatty and non-fatty solids." It appears that this supply was most probably the source of No. 68E. Follow up samples were purchased on the 28th August, No. 85E. night's milk, reported, "Just up to the Ministry of Agriculture minimum in respect of milk fat content."—3·0 per cent. fat and 8·9 per cent. non-fatty solids. No. 86E. morning's milk, purchased same time, reported, milk fat 3·3 per cent. and non-fatty solids 9·0 per cent.

All the samples of milk were free from preservatives and colouring matter.

No cause was found for action to be taken under section 4 of the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The following reports have been received from H.M. Inspector of Factories :—

Notice of occupation of Workshop, 1.

NOTICE OF DEFECTS :—	No.	No. of Defects Remedied.	No. of Defects in hand.
Want of cleanliness—Workshop	2	2	—
Want of cleanliness—Factories	3	3	—

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

FACTORIES :—

Insufficient	1	...	1	...	—
Not separate (Workshop 1)...	2	...	1	...	1
Unsuitable (Workshop 1) ...	2	...	—	...	2
Not properly separated from workrooms	7	...	6	...	1
Lack of privacy	1	...	1	...	—
Without separate screened approach	1	...	—	...	1
TOTALS	20	...	14	...	5

DEFECTS FOUND ON INSPECTION :—

FACTORIES.

Closet accommodation unsuitable ...	1	Defects Remedied. 1
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WORKSHOPS :

Insufficient, not separate	1	1
Water closet defective	1	1
Drains defective	3	3
Choked defective drains	2	.....	2
Ventilation defective	1	.....	1
Dirty walls, etc.	11	.....	11
TOTALS	20	.....	20

HOME WORK.

LISTS OF OUTWORKERS RECEIVED :—

No. of lists 7, No. of Workers, 27, No. of Contractors 1.

No. of lists received once during the year 5, do. do. twice 2.

NO. OF REPORTS FORWARDED TO H.M. INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES 15.

VISITS OF INSPECTION :—	
Factories.....	86
Workshops	129
Bakehouses	188
	—
TOTAL	403
	—

MACCLESFIELD CORPORATION ACT, 1923.

The Macclesfield Corporation Act, 1923, was promoted during the year and received the Royal Assent, on the 2nd August, 1923.

It contains important provisions with regard to the health, improvement, and good government of the Borough. A brief outline of which is appended.

Waterworks and Water Supply.—The construction of the new Trentabank Reservoir, acquisition of the land, diversion of roads, etc., necessary for the same and for the protection of the water supply. Provisions as to mains, charges or rates, prevention of waste, and interference with pipes and fittings.

Markets and Slaughterhouses.—Extension of Sections 116 to 119 of the Public Health Act, 1875, Power of removal or exclusion from market of animals not fit for human food or suspected of tuberculosis. Power to close registered slaughterhouses if injurious to public health, and to extend the bye-laws.

Street Buildings, Sewers and Drains.—Power to compel lopping of trees overhanging highways, additional control of new buildings and hoardings, prevention of water flowing over footpath, control of projections over streets, power of extension of bye-laws with respect to the alteration of buildings, provision for inspection by surveyor during construction, provision for larders to be provided in all houses erected after the passing of the Act. Power for the Corporation to order houses to be drained by a combined drain, provision in lieu of section 19, of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, extending the definition of the expression “drain.”

Power to compel the provision of Regulation ashbins for refuse and Restraint in the use of the same, provision for repair of private drains, prohibition of entry of petroleum spirit, &c. into sewers, exten-

sion of definition of Nuisances within the meaning of section 91 of the Public Health Act, 1875, to include choked watercourses, etc.

Infectious Disease and Sanitary Matters.—Power to make Bye-laws for places used for the preparation of food, contains sanitary regulations for premises where food is deposited for sale. Power to refuse registration of premises for the sale of milk, increases power in respect to filthy premises, prohibits rag and bone dealers selling food, provides for the registration of premises used for the manufacture, &c., of potted meats, and also for regulating the manufacture and sale of ice cream, etc. There are also provisions with respect to Hackney Carriages, Gas, Financial and Miscellaneous Matters.

The Provision of and Restriction on use of Ashbins.

The following provisions of the Macclesfield Corporation Act, 1923, are of importance and very necessary from the public health standpoint :—

SECTION 92.—

The Corporation may by notice in writing require the owner or occupier of any house, office, warehouse, shop, stall, or workshop, to provide and maintain portable galvanized iron refuse bins and such bins shall be of such number, size and construction as may be approved by the Corporation, and any owner or occupier who fails within fourteen days after notice given to him to comply with the requirements of the Corporation shall for every such offence be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty shillings and to a daily penalty not exceeding five shillings.

Provided that this section shall not apply in respect of any premises where ashtubs or other receptacles for refuse are in use at the passing of this Act so long as the same are of suitable number, material, size and construction and in proper order and condition.

SECTION 93.—

RESTRICTION ON USE OF ASHBINS.

(1). From and after the passing of this Act it shall not be lawful^l for any person to use any ashbin or dustbin for any purpose other^r than the deposit of dust, ashes, or other house refuse, not being of a liquid or partly liquid character intended for removal by or on behalf of the Corporation.

(2). Any person contravening the provisions of this section shall be liable to a penalty of ten shillings and to a daily penalty of ten shillings.

These clauses give the necessary power to secure the proper storage of the house refuse, the absence of which had long been felt, and resulted in all kinds of utensils being used for this purpose, mostly of unsuitable material and construction, or no receptacles at all being provided.

Apart from the menace to health these conditions impose considerable extra labour on the men employed in the removing of the refuse.

The first notices under the Act were sent out in October. In all up to the end of the year, 164 first notices, 43 second or subsequent notices had been sent to the different owners for the provision of bins, which resulted in 207 bins being provided. 346 notices were sent to the tenants as to the proper use of these.

It is hoped that during the coming year the whole of the Borough will be properly supplied with the regulation galvanized iron ashbins.

At the conclusion of this Report I append the Reports of the Senior Sanitary Inspector on his work during the year as Sanitary Inspector and as Inspector under the Housing and Town Planning Acts.

His work as usual has been carried out with great care and conscientious exactitude.

In conclusion, I desire to thank all my colleagues in the Sanitary service for loyal help and co-operation.

I beg to remain,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. HEDLEY MARSH.

REPORT BY THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR,
(MR. HERMANN.)

THE HOUSING & TOWN PLANNING, &c. ACTS,
1909—1923.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT FOR 1923.

AREA OF THE DISTRICT INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR.

Broken Cross, part of Crompton Road and Chester Road, Chelford Road, Derby Street, Fallibroome Road, Gawsorth Road, part of London Road ; Lyme Avenue, Pexhill Road, Stanley Street, St. John's Road, Whirley Road and Whirley Grove.

The number of houses inspected during the year is 506, making the total number of houses, inspected since the commencement of the inspection in 1911, 8,365.

Attention was specially directed to overcrowding, in all 9 cases of overcrowding were found, details of which are given separately.

Twenty houses were occupied by more than one family, only one of which was overcrowded, (No. 5 on overcrowded list). This was subsequently relieved by the second family leaving the town.

In all there were 43 separate families occupying these 20 houses. Sixteen of the families desired to remove if they could obtain a house at a suitable rent.

The bad effects of sub-letting are not confined to overcrowding and the opportunity to make undue profit out of the unfortunate necessity of the sub-tenant to secure accommodation where he can.

In most cases it is a makeshift existence, and its continuance for any length of time saps the independence and house pride of the women, which are replaced with discontent and indifference. With the result that they become inured to the inconveniences and drawbacks under which they live, and cease to desire a separate home with its increased work and responsibility, and so perpetuate these undesirable social conditions.

The following are the particulars of the cases of overcrowding.

DETAILS OF OVERCROWDING.

1. Two rooms and 2 bedrooms, occupied by father, mother and 5 children, ranging from 14 years to 2 years, overcrowded by using one bedroom only. Abated by using both as ordered.
2. Single house, one room down and one room up, occupied by father, mother, and 3 children, ranging from 5 years to 1 year. Father out of work, promised to get a larger house as soon as possible.
3. Two rooms down and 2 bedrooms, occupied by father, mother and 4 children, ranging from 9 years to 2 years, overcrowded by using one bedroom only. Abated by using both as ordered.
4. Single house, 1 room down and 1 bedroom, occupied by father, mother, and 4 children, ranging from 17 years to 10 years. Want to remove to larger house.
5. Two rooms down and 2 bedrooms, occupied by two families, 4 adults and 6 children, ranging from 8 years to 3 months. Abated by one family, 2 adults and 3 children, removing.
6. Two rooms down and 2 bedrooms, occupied by parents and 4 children, ranging from 10 years to 4 years. Overcrowded by using one bedroom only. Abated by using both as ordered.
7. Two rooms down and 2 bedrooms, occupied by father, mother, and 8 children, ranging from 10 years to 4 years. Want larger house.
8. Single house with garret, occupied by two families, 4 adults and 3 children, 3 years to 1 year. Very poor, said would remove as soon as possible.
9. Three rooms down and 2 bedrooms, occupied by two families, 4 adults and 5 children, ranging from 15 years to 9 years. One family will remove as soon as possible.

HOUSING.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR —

(a) Total	8
(b) With State assistance under use Housing Acts, 1919 or 1923 :—	
(i) By the Local Authority	0
(ii) By other bodies or persons	0

1.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

INSPECTION :—

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	912
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	506
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....	0
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	323

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	306
---	-----

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 28 OF THE HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING &C. ACT, 1919 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit : (a) by owners	0
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	0
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close.....	0

B.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	323
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :— (a) by owners	306
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners.....	0

C.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 17 AND 18 OF THE HOUSING TOWN PLANNING, &C. ACT, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	0
--	---

(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.....	0
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the houses having been rendered fit	0
(4)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(5)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	12

In addition to the above-mentioned, 6 houses were demolished voluntarily, 2 in connection with street improvements and 4 which had been closed for some considerable time.

An obstructive building was also demolished by Order.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

HEALTH OFFICE,
TOWN HALL,
MACCLESFIELD.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH
COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report shewing the particulars of the action taken in the suppression of nuisances and the various improvements effected during the year ended 31st December, 1923.

During the year, 396 nuisances were satisfactorily abated, to effect which 14 statutory notices were served and 917 preliminary notices and letters written to owners, etc. One person was summoned before the Magistrates for using an unsuitable outbuilding as a dwelling, and an Order of prohibition made. The building was subsequently demolished as an obstructive building.

The following are the principal alterations and improvements effected, 320 new windows have been fixed and 455 altered to improve the means of ventilation, 34 bedroom floors, 36 stairs, 31 ceilings, 40 living room or scullery floors, and 78 doors have been repaired or renewed. Eighteen new glazed sinks have been fixed, 4 defective slopstones discharge pipes renewed and 3 disconnected from the drain. Nine houses have had water laid on inside and the supply of 11 houses has been improved by the fixing of a larger service supply pipe. Repairs and renewals have been effected to 87 roofs and 124 eavestroughs. 169 house drains have been cleansed, relaid or improved, and the paving of four yards relaid. 38 privy midden closets and 2 waste water closets have been converted into clean water closets and 9 additional clean water closets provided. In addition 43 clean water closets have been built in connection with new property. The tenants have been required to limewash and cleanse 12 dirty houses, relieve and cleanse 73 dirty or choked water closets, and clean 31 dirty yards and drains.

Special attention was given, particularly during the fly season, to the removal of manure and the prevention of offensive accumulations.

Thirty observations for smoke nuisances were made and 6 of the worst cases written to with subsequent improvement.

253 houses were specially inspected on account of outbreaks of infectious disease and the necessary instructions given. 236 notices were sent to schools and parents and the Librarian of the Free Library re the isolation of children and the loan of books.

132 houses have been disinfected after infectious disease, including 31 after the death or removal of the patient in cases of phthisis.

153 cases, including 71 from outside districts, were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

The regular inspection of the Common Lodging Houses, Slaughterhouses, Bakehouses, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops has been carried out, fuller details of which are given under their respective headings, together with the inspection of Canal Boats.

The special provisions of the Macclesfield Corporation Act, 1923, applying to the manufacturer and sale of ice cream, etc., have been delivered and explained to those concerned.

With the administration of the Shops Acts a number of warnings have been given resulting in the desired improvement, and one person summoned for two offences, the maximum penalty being imposed in each case.

Constant care and attention has been required in connection with the Contagious Diseases of Animals Acts on account of the prevalence of Foot and Mouth Disease, particularly during the periods of the outbreaks in the neighbouring districts, and it is a source of great satisfaction to record that so far the Borough has escaped the introduction of the infection of this much dreaded disease.

In all 1,293 licenses were issued and received under the regulations relating to the above and 57 licenses granted for the removal of swine under the Swine Fever Regulations.

Four Detention Notices were served on the instructions of the Inspector of the Ministry in charge of the outbreaks in the neighbouring districts.

The warning handbills, issued by the Ministry, re the spread of the disease by straw used for the packing of imported articles, with the request that every precaution should be taken to prevent the same being sent to farmers for manure, were circulated throughout the district.

Early in February a suspected case of Anthrax in a newly calved cow was notified. The carcasses of the cow and calf were cremated with the dung and litter which had been in contact, and the disinfection of the shippin and farmyard carried out in accordance with the Order of the Ministry.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOSEPH HERMANN.

BOROUGH OF MACCLESFIELD.

CANAL BOATS ACTS, 1877 & 1884.

TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OF THE BOROUGH OF
MACCLESFIELD.

In conformity with Section 3 of the Canal Boats Act of 1884, I respectfully submit my Annual Report on the work done under the above Acts during the year ended 31st December, 1923.

Twenty-three Boats were inspected during the year, 22 of which I found complying with the regulations of the Ministry of Health in a satisfactory manner. The other required painting. The owner, when interviewed, said that it had not been used since last October (1922) and that he would have it properly painted and repaired before it was again used.

The notice outstanding from my last report in respect of the boat "Harken" has been complied with. The boat, which was a very old one, has been stopped working and removed.

The Boats were registered to accommodate 69 adults. There were found in occupation, 47 adults—24 males and 23 females—and five children, four of whom were under school age.

No case of infectious disease was met with during the year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM JENKINS.

General Order of Local Government Board (Medical Officer of Health and Inspectors of Nuisances)

December 13th, 1910.

Tabular Statement of Sanitary Inspector for the Year ended December 31st, 1923.

A Number and Nature of Inspections made.	B No. of Notices Served.			C Result of Service of Notices.		
	Number.	Statutory.	Informal.	Notices com- plied with.	Remaining in hand.	Prosecution Instituted.
1. Dwelling-houses (general inspection) ...	891	5	463	443	25	0
2. Cellar Dwellings	None in District.					
3. Back-to-Back Houses	21	0	11	11	0	0
4. Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c.	6	2	3	5	0	1
5. Courts, Yards, Passages	No record kept.					
6. Privy-Middens, Earth or Pail Closets...	78	0	41	39	2	0
7. Cesspools	6	0	1	1	0	0
8. House Drainage	333	7	143	150	0	0
9. Ditches, Watercourses, &c.	19	0	13	13	0	0
10. Offensive Accumulations	172	0	33	33	0	0
11. The keeping of Animals (P.H.A., 1875, S. 91 (3))	23	0	12	12	0	0
12. Offensive Trades	36	0	0	0	0	0
13. (a) Slaughterhouses (Public)	None in District.					
Do. (Private)	805	0	3	3	0	0
(b) Other Places where Food is pro- duced or sold	163	0	0	0	0	0
14. Piggeries	31	0		0	0	0
15. (a) Dairies	14	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Cowsheds	106	0	28	19	9	0
(c) Milkshops	84	0	0	0	0	0
16. (a) Factories.....	86	0	15	13	2	0
(b) Workshops	129	0	24	21	3	0
(c) Workplaces	11	0	0	0	0	0
(d) Outworkers' Premises ..	8	0	0	0	0	0
17. Bakehouses (Overground)	188	0	3	3	0	0
Do. (Underground)	None in use.					
18. Common Lodging Houses	312	0	3	3	0	0
19. Houses let in Lodgings	Not registered.					
20. Smoke Observations	30	0	6	6	0	0
21. Canal Boats	23	0	1	1	0	0
22. Infectious Disease Inquiries and Revisits	959	0	0	0	0	0
23. Miscellaneous	117	0	114	111	3	0
TOTALS	4651	14	917	887	44	1

JOSEPH HERMANN.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.
TABULAR SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK
DURING 1923.

MACCLESFIELD BOROUGH.

I.—WATER SUPPLY.

1. Have any extensions been carried out during 1923 ? If so please append brief note.—A new 4" water main has been laid round Ivy Road and Ivy Lane, linking up Chester Road with Congleton Road. The water for this main is supplied from the "Booster Station" in Chester Road and has greatly improved the pressure in the Moss Lane District, especially at the Moss Lane Hospital.
2. Number of Samples analysed during 1923—Chemically 19 ; Bacteriologically 19.
3. Are any, and if so what, parts of your district still without a proper supply of water ?—Portion of the Hurdsfield area is supplied by water from a well and not considered satisfactory. Other parts without filtered water supply are Buxton Road above the Blakelow Road Filters, also part of the Broken Cross area beyond the present water mains Both these districts are thinly populated.

II.—SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

1. Specify any new works of sewerage carried out during 1923.—Two new sewers have been laid one in Castle Street and one in Athey Street.
2. Are any, and if so what, parts of your district still without a proper system of sewers ?—Both Moss Lane and part of Broken Cross are still without proper sewers, but the Council are preparing schemes for dealing with both matters.
3. Have there been any complaints to your knowledge during 1923 as to the disposal works ?—No.
4. Have any alterations or extensions taken place to your knowledge in the disposal works during 1923 ?—The following new extensions have been completed during the year. Sludge conduit from the Sedimentation and Storm Tanks to the Pump Well, Sludge main from the Pump Well to Woodend Farm, Mechanical Screens and Screen House in duplicate. Power Plant consisting of Crude Oil Engines driving two 15 K.W.D.C. Dynamos, Battery of Accumulators, Switch Board, &c. Work of improvement still in progress.

III.—HOUSING.

1. Number of new houses built during 1923	8
2. Number of dwelling-houses inspected under s. 17 Act of 1909	506
3. Number of such houses considered unfit for habitation	0
4. Number of representations made to Local Authority...	0
5. Number of closing orders made by Local Authority...	0
6. Number of houses where defects remedied without closing orders being made	306
7. Number of houses where defects remedied after closing orders made	0
8. Estimated or ascertained number of houses within limits of rent in s. 14 of Act of 1909	5500
9. Number of such houses in respect of which notice was served during 1923	283
10. Number of such houses closed after notice	0
11. Number of such houses where Local Authority has executed necessary repairs, &c.	0
12. Approximate number of back-to-back houses in district	150
13. Approximate number of cellar dwellings in district.....	0
14. What number of dwelling-houses for the working classes has your Council, decided are required under the recent Housing Act ?	132

IV.—TOWN PLANNING.

Has any scheme of Town Planning been put forward during 1923 for your District or any part thereof? If so please make brief note of (a) part of District covered by Scheme; (b) Area.—3,214 acres; (c) Population.—33,846; (d) How far has the Scheme progressed at date of making this Report?—Council have approved Map No. 1 (6" Scale) and inserted advertisement in local newspaper.

N.B.—Plans have been approved for 49 State Aided Houses, 10 of which have been commenced building, and in addition 5 other houses have been commenced which are not State Aided.

V.—*MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

1. Has a Health Visitor been appointed—Whole time.—Two whole time. Part time.—Nil.
2. Are all new births which need visitation seen by Health Visitor?—Yes.
If so how often?—Monthly and more frequently in special cases. Urgent cases daily when necessary.
3. Are these infants visited regularly until 5 years of age?—Yes. If so, how often?—Quarterly.
4. Have you any Maternity Centre, Babies' Welcome, Day Nursery, Infant Consultation, School for Mothers, &c., in your district?—Yes, all except Maternity Centre, accommodation for which is provided at West Park Hospital.
5. If the Health Visitor does other work please give brief particulars.—No other work done.

* In districts which have joined the County Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme these queries need not be answered.

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